

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-17

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1694

INFO USCINCSO

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJECT: RUNOFF ELECTION RESULTS

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

REF BA 2594

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. FREJULI CANDIDATES WON ALL GOVERNORSHIPS EXCEPT NEUQUEN WHERE FELIPE SAPAG CAPTURED THE POST WITH 60 PERCENT OF THE VOTE. THE UCR WON THE EXTRA SENATORIAL SEAT IN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL AND DISSIDENT PERONISTS IN SANTIAGO DEL ESTERO ALSO WERE SENATORIAL WINNERS. THESE WERE THE ONLY EXCEPTIONS, HOWEVER, AS FREJULI SENATORIAL CANDIDATES WON EVERYWHERE ELSE AND RAISED THEIR TOTAL TO 43 SENATE SEATS, WELL OVER BTP PERCENT PLUS ONE BUT THREE SHORT OF A TWO- THIRDS MAJORITY. END SUMMARY.

2. FREJULI MOMENTUM GAINED IN THE MAR 11 ELECTIONS CARRIED THE ALLIANCE TO EXPECTED VICTORIES IN ALMOST ALL ELECTORAL DISTRICTS. THEIR CANDIDATES FOR GOVERNOR AND VICE GOVERNOR WON IN 11 OUT OF 12 PROVINCES, ALL BY COMFORTABLE MARGINS. THE ONLY EXCEPTION WAS NEUQUEN WHERE FELIP SAPAG WON AS ANTICIPATED DESPITE CAMPORA' S CAMPAIGNING AND HEAVY COMMITMENT OF PRESTIGE ON BEHALF OF THE FREJULI CANDIDATE THERE; SAPAG,
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A SELF- STYLED NEO-/0349,8 5, WON SIXTY PERCENT OF HIS PROVINCE' S VOTE. THUS THE PERONISTS HAVE 20 OF 22 GOVERNORSHIPS, LACKING ONLY NEUQUEN AND SANTIAGO DEL ESTERO WHERE A SUPREME COURT DECISION WILL PROBABLY BE MADE THIS WEEK CONCERNING THE NEED FOR A RUNOFF ELECTION FOR GOVERNOR THERE.

3. THE FREJULI FARED ALMOST AS WELL IN THE SENATORIAL RACES. ITS CANDIDATES IN THIS AREA WON WITH EQUALLY COMFORTABLE MARGINS EXCEPT IN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL WHERE UCR CANDIDATE DE LA RUA DEFEATED THE FREJULI' S SANCHEZ SORONDO, NON- PERONIST RIGHTWING ULTRA- NATIONALIST POLITICAN. ALSO, IN SANTIAGO DEL ESTERO, THE BASTION OF CONFUSED POLITICS, DISSIDENT PERONIST FRANCISCO CERRO DEFEATED HIS MID (REALLY FREJULI) RIVAL WASHINGTON INCA CARDOZO. IN ANY EVENT, THE FREJULI RAISED ITS TOTAL OF SENATE SEETS TO 43, WELL OVER THE BET REQUIRED FOR AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY BUT THREE SHORT OF THE 46 NECCEARY FOR THE SPECIAL MAJORITY OF TWO- THIRDS.

4. VOTING WAS ACCOMPLISHED IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF COMPLETE TRANQUILITY AS AN ESTIMATED 75-80 PERCENT OF THE ELIGIBLE VOTERS TURNED OUT IN COOL, WET WEATHER TO CAST THEIR BALLOTS. THE TOTAL OF BLANK VOTES IN ALL DISTRICTS WAS HIGHER THAN IN THE FIRST ELECTION, BUT NOT SIGNIFICANTLY SO; MOST VOTERS SEEM TO HAVE MADE A POSITIVE CHOICE FOR THE SECOND ROUND. IF THERE WERE ANY SURPRISES IN THIS ANTICLIMATIC ELECTION, THEY WERE TO BE FOUND IN THE MARGINS OF DIFFERENCE IN SOME OF THE RACES WHERE A CLOSER BATTLE HAD BEEN EXPECTED. IN CORDOBA THE UCR' S VICTOR MARTINEZ WAS DEFEATED BY ALMOST 100,000 VOTES WHILE IN MENDOZA THE FREJULI CREAMED THE RIVAL PARTIDO DEMOCRATA WITH ABOUT 75 PERCENT OF THE VOTE. THE PROVISIONAL COUNT WENT MUCH MORE SMOOTHLY AND RAPIDLY THAN ON MARCH 11, ANDTHE CLEANNESS OF THE ELECTION IS GENERALLY ACKNOWLEDGED. IT IS HOPED THE DEFINITIVE COUNT WILL BE MADE KNOWN BY THE END OF THE WEEK IF NOT SOONER. RESULTS FURTHER CONFIRM WISDOM OF RADICALS IN DELINING SECOND ROUND OF VOTING FOR THE PRESIDENCY.
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